

# INTERNAL STRIFE TO PACIFY GERMANY, EVEN IF UNBEATEN

British Cabinet Ministers Hope Starving Teutons Will Rise and Kill Militarism by Ousting Junker Masters.

By JOHN L. BALDERSTON.

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London, April 22.—At least three members of the British government have for months past frankly faced the possibility that it may be impossible to defeat the German armies in the field. They are inclined to think, with a large section of opinion in belligerent and neutral countries, that after German strength declines and the German general staff is forced to give up all hope of conquering its enemies, the German defensive may prove too strong to be broken.

This does not mean that British policy at present is based on an admission that the war is a draw. Far from it. The soldiers are in control, and will have their chance to win if they can, backed up by the whole nation and furnished with as many men, guns and shells as the country is able to supply. But it is the business of statesmen to prepare for all eventualities, and they are doing it. The recent answer of Premier Asquith to Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the Reichstag makes it possible to write this article. Until that speech was made such information on this subject as was obtainable in London was highly confidential, for reasons that will appear.

No Need to Invade Germany.

The British government, if the opinion of its most powerful leader can be taken as representing the government, believes that England and France can if necessary win a moral victory, achieve in fact what they set out to win in August, 1914, without victoriously invading Germany.

This can be done, they think, if the Allies relentlessly prosecute the war to the limit of their strength, wearing Germany down by the loss of her soldiers and her economic resources and by food shortage at home. The superior staying powers of the Entente, due to the command of the sea and greater available numbers of men, are relied upon to bring about a social revolution in Germany, a political upheaval, probably peaceful, which will result in placing political power in the hands of the masses and ousting the Prussian landowners, or Junkers, from control.

Prussian militarism will then be dead, and the deluded German people, too powerful to be crushed, but without aggressive designs on their neighbors, can then be granted a peace they can accept with honor and which will leave the Fatherland untouched, while rendering back to their owners all of Germany's resources that remain unredeemed by the Allied armies. That is the theory in a nutshell of how the aggression of Prussia can be ended even if Prussia cannot be conquered.

Plan Outlined to Editor.

Colonel George Harvey, editor of the North American Review, who enjoys prestige in Europe as "the man who discovered Wilson" was in England last autumn and has described in his magazine how the "most increasingly powerful" member of the government asked his views on the war. Colonel Harvey explained his doubts that the Allies could be put across the Rhine to dictate peace to Germany, and the minister admitted that this might be true. He then outlined to Colonel Harvey a plan by which the aim of the Entente might be achieved even if the colonel's fears were well founded, but requested Colonel Harvey not even to hint the nature of the conversation.

This request, of course, was observed. But this member of the government has talked to other persons on the subject, and Mr. Asquith's speech, which, to the initiated, let the cat out of the bag, makes it possible to say that the policy of fighting on until Germany herself "casts out her devil," as I have heard it phrased, was probably the one under discussion, even though the discussion took place as long ago as last fall.

Why all this secrecy? It may be asked. A subordinate motive may have been a fear of possible clamor and disastrous political consequences at home. A stronger motive was probably the desire not to weaken the morale of the Entente by the front by open discussion of a peace not based upon military successes.

Reasons for Secrecy.

But there are two compelling reasons why, for a long time yet, this question can only be officially dealt with by hints not intended to be understood by the public. The first is Russia.

It has been feared that if stress were laid in England and France on the necessity of ousting the military clique that rules Prussia and turning over the country to the German people, serious offense would be taken by members of the Russian autocracy. As it is, one of the strongest arguments of the now hopeless, but recently dangerous, Russian peace party has been that the destruction of the Prussian autocracy would react disastrously on the position of the bureaucrats in the realm of the Czar. The fears of the court party have been assiduously played upon, and the old theory that the German aristocracy should stand together against democracies has been preached in the aristocratic salons of Petrograd. The mildest suggestion by England, or England and France to the German people that they should reform their government would be met by the Junkers, fairly enough, with the request that the Entente first see to it that its powerful partner Russia installed popular rule. Which is a job England and France have no intention of undertaking.

The second reason for silence is the knowledge that hatred of England and suspicion of her diplomacy are so strong among the people of Germany that any attempt to argue the Germans into letting rid of their masters would only have the opposite result and increase their popularity, or decrease their unpopularity, at home. This process has

been observed in the case of the Kaiser, who when decorated with horns and a tall abroad, was promptly supplied with a halo by his indignant subjects.

Asquith Gives Idea.

Nevertheless, the germ of the British idea is contained in what Mr. Asquith said in his speech to visiting French senators and deputies last week, and it may be surmised that he spoke out because it is now evident that the opposition to the government in Germany is increasing rapidly, and because Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg had just succeeded in throwing a heavy damper over the opposition by pleading that Germany has no choice but to fight on to the end, because her enemies are vowed to destroy her.

Bethmann-Hollweg said that the allies desired to destroy "free and united Germany," and quoted Mr. Asquith as having declared for the "complete and final destruction of the military power of Prussia."

Asquith is too clever a diplomat to have ever said that. What he did say, in November, 1914, was that England would not sheathe the sword "until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed." There is great difference between "power" and "domination." The latter word may mean anything. Asquith's statement in 1914 was understood by his Guildhall audience to be a pledge that England would fight until Prussia was crushed, and until last week the premier steadily refused to add another word to his statement, or to explain it in any way, although constantly challenged to do so by the small pacifist group in the house of commons.

Fits in with Plan.

Here is Mr. Asquith's crafty explanation, which, if read over three or four times, will be seen to fit with the plan I have outlined, to contain nothing about conquering the German armies and nothing which could in any way give offense to Germany to the social democrats by seeming to offer them advice.

"Great Britain and France alike entered

All Eyes on People's Party in Reichstag—Asquith and Others Speak in Riddles So as Not to Dishearten the Allied Armies.

the war not to strangle Germany, not to wipe her off the map of Europe, not to destroy or mutilate her national life, certainly not to interfere with, to use the chancellor's language, 'the free existence of her national endeavors.' We were driven both here and in France to take up arms in order to prevent Germany, which for this purpose means Prussia, from establishing a position of military menace and dominance over her neighbors. On several occasions in the last ten years Germany has given evidence of her intention to dictate to Europe under threat of war and in violating the neutrality of Belgium she proved that she meant to establish her ascendancy even at the price of a universal war and of tearing up the basis of European policy as established by treaty. The purpose of the allies in the war is to defeat that attempt, and thereby pave the way for an international system which will secure the principle of equal rights for a civilized states.

No Word of Military Victory.

There was no word of military victory, but Mr. Asquith with great emphasis, declaring that the chancellor's suggestion meant that the Allies must assume the attitude of the defeated in peace negotiations, said, "But we are not defeated; and we are not going to be defeated." Lord Cromer, by what may have been more than a coincidence, gave voice in a letter to the Times, on the very morning when Mr. Asquith's speech was printed, to the program of those who believe that Germany cannot be beaten in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN.

## DISTRICT AUTO CLUB GAINS NEW MEMBERS

Seventeen Names Added to List Last Week—Owners Want Plenty of Information.

Steadily upward climbs the membership list of the A. A. A. District of Columbia Club. Never in the history of the National Capital motoring affairs have local motorists accorded the launching of an automobile club the fine support they are tendering the new organization.

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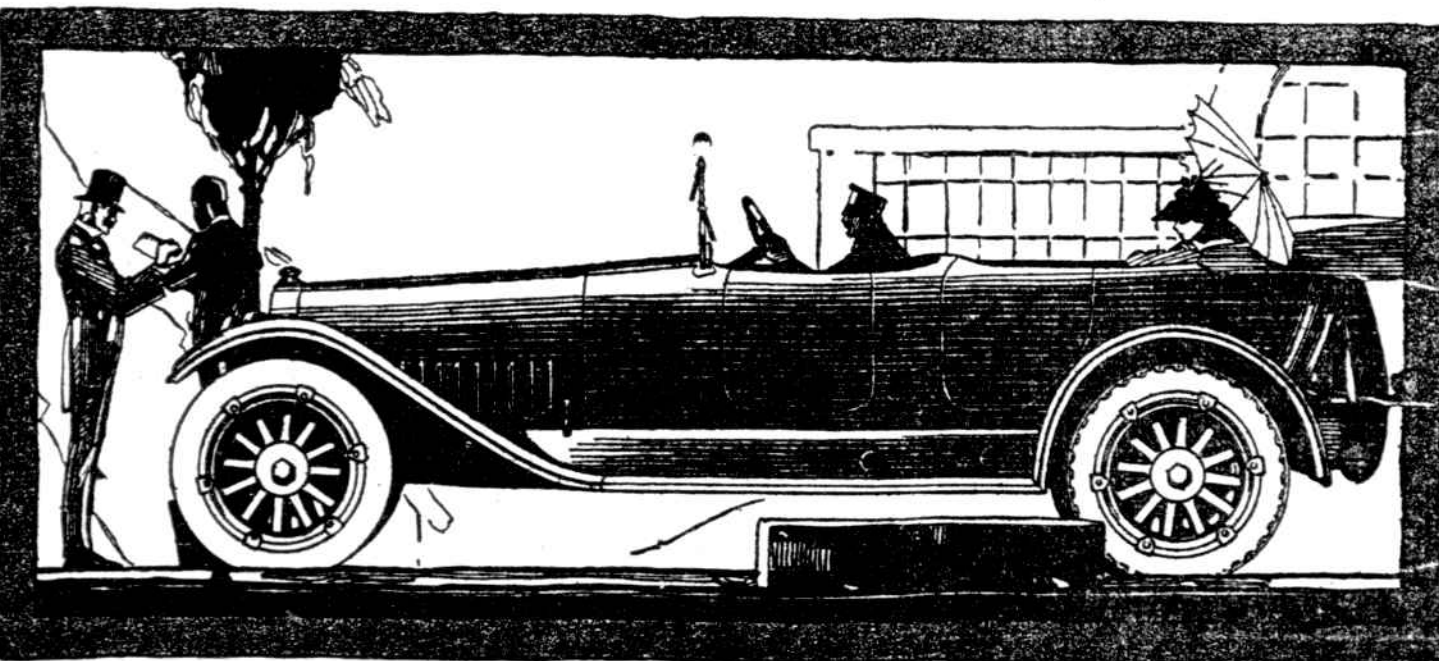
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